

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/940,476

Examiner

Kamran Emdadi

Applicant(s)

MORIWAKI ET AL.

Art Unit

2667

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8-1-2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 8-29-2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Notice of Allowability

Claims 1-10 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Independent claims 1 and 4-5 are allowed because none of the prior art references described below teaches a packet switch having all of the features recited in these claims.

Suzuki (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0030942) teaches a crossbar switch system with a plurality of crossbar switches that operate in unison when one of the switches fails. Nowhere does Suzuki teach the features recited in claim 1 of the instant application, for example, the block distributor's handling of data blocks in the event of a fault with one of the crossbar switches, and related features.

In another reference Venkitakrishnan (U.S. Patent No. 6,263,415), the teachings include a redundant routing system for a crossbar switch architecture. The teachings include a circuit containing a plurality of chips that handle the crossbar switching architecture processing and redundancy. Nowhere does Venkitakrishnan teach the features recited in claim 1 of the instant application, for example, the block distributor's handling of data blocks in the event of a fault with one of the crossbar switches, and related features.

In yet another reference Gerstel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,256,293), the teachings include a fault management transmission system. The teachings include a multiplexing configuration for handling line card failures. Nowhere does Gerstel teach the features recited in claim 1 of the instant application, for example, the block distributor's handling

Art Unit: 2667

of data blocks in the event of a fault with one of the crossbar switches, and related features.

Independent claims 4-5 are also allowable for substantially similar reasons with regard to claim 1. In addition, dependent claims 2-3 and 6-10 are also allowable by virtue of dependency thereon.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kamran Emdadi whose telephone number is 571-272-6047. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F between the hours of 8am-5pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on 571-272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2667

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kamran Emdadi

August 10, 2005


CHI PHAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2000 8/12/05